



MEETING NOTES

IPAC ESA-DVR SUBCOMMITTEE

May 6, 2010, CV-1 Building, All Staff Room, Olympia

The IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting convened on May 6, 2010 at Capital View 1 Building, All Staff Room, Olympia.

► **In Attendance:**

Name	Tribe/Organization
Shari Hughes	Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Nicole Earls	Quileute Tribe (by phone)
Marilyn Scott	Upper Skagit Tribes (by phone)
Margo Hill	Spokane Tribe (by phone)
Kelly Franklin	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Colleen Cawston	DSHS, Office of Indian Policy
David Stillman	DSHS, Division of Child Support
Ginger Stewart	ESA, Operations Support
Barbera Busko	ESA, Operations Support
Cindy Trokey	DSHS, Office of Indian Policy
Trudy Marcellay	DSHS, Office of Indian Policy
Saundra Cheek	ESA, Division of Child Support
Sarah Colleen Sotomish	ESA, State Tribal Relations Office
Troy Hutson	ESA, Office of the Assistant Secretary
Dori Shoji	ESA, Office of the Assistant Secretary
Doug North	DSHS, Office of Indian Policy
Tim Collins	DSHS, Office of Indian Policy (by phone)

► **Welcome & Introductions:** Sarah Colleen Sotomish, ESA State Tribal Relations Office, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the second meeting in 2010 for the IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meeting.

► **Agenda:** There were no requested revisions to the draft agenda:

► **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Updates:** Kelly Franklin, provided the following updates for the Division of Vocation Rehabilitation:

- Effective January 4, 2010, Director Renae Rutledge left DVR with Andres Aguirre being appointed as Acting Director. The hiring process to appoint a new director is expected to be completed by June 2010.
- DVR anticipates being able to maintain the current level of services for clients
- DVD's are available upon request providing an overview of DVR's services. To request a DVD contact: Avreayl Jacobson at: jacobaa@dshs.wa.gov
 - See links to DVR video clips at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/Employers/Employers.aspx>

► **Assistant Secretary's Opening Remarks:** Troy Hutson, Assistant Secretary, Economic Services Administration, recounted the five Tribes he visited last year and announced seven Tribes he intends to visit this year-(Spokane, Kalispel, Cowlitz, Quinault, Hoh, Samish and Nez Perce Tribes). His other opening remarks included:

- The CSD Service Delivery Redesign project was created to make it quicker and easier for clients to access services using methods like out-stationed staff, online applications, same-day service and a statewide toll-free number. Early evidence and the client response shows the project is helping staff to reduce wait times and approve benefits sooner during a time of rising caseloads and reduced staffing. ESA is looking at using this type of approach for DCS child support services as well.
- The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe started taking Medicaid and Basic Food applications on January 1. We are very excited about this pilot that allows the tribal government to provide full services to its Tribal TANF clients and look forward to the day we may be able to expand this to other Tribal TANF programs in Washington State.
- There will be two Mobile CSOs to provide services in underserved areas, with one bus serving western Washington and the other the eastern side of the state. Staff will be working with Tribes, libraries and other entities such as Department of Licensing offices to schedule times and places for the buses to deliver services.
- Region 6 has been working with tribes to fill several vacancies for financial staff located at tribal clinics. The hiring freeze has left about half of these positions unfilled. The department will work on an exception to the hiring freeze with the justification that these positions are largely federally funded. The region will continue to work with the affected tribal governments and keep them apprised of our progress.

► **Legislative & Budget Update:** Troy Hutson, Assistant Secretary, and Dori Shoji of the Office of the Assistant Secretary reviewed the ESA and Budget changes on the attached handout. Highlights include:

- The department will be engaging stakeholders, Tribes and employees in the WorkFirst re-examination planning process. ESA is hoping to have an engagement strategy to share with tribal governments by early June.
- GA changes required under E2SHB 2782 include changing the name to Disability Lifeline and a retroactive time limit of 24 months in a five-year period that becomes effective September 1, 2010. Federal health care reform allows states to expand Medicaid coverage, so this may affect persons on GA as well.
- The furlough bill was passed, so most ESA employees will have 10 unpaid days next state fiscal year with exceptions for some employees based on job duties or wages.

► **Benefits Portal Update:** DSHS is teaming with a broad-based coalition of partners from both the public and private sector to develop a web-based universal application, benefits portal. The benefits portal will make it easier and help reduce the time it takes

for low-income families and individuals to apply/access a variety of vital services and benefits.

- Jennifer LaPointe of the Puyallup Tribe and Joe Ruiz of the Samish Tribe have agreed to serve as members of the steering committee.

► **Tribal TANF Update:** Troy Hutson, Assistant Secretary, provided an update on the Consultation process regarding State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding for Tribal TANF programs.

- DSHS Secretary Dreyfus has sent a letter to Tribal Chairs requesting their guidance as to whether Tribes would prefer to negotiate the MOE funding through one-on-one negotiations between DSHS and each Tribe.

► **Community Services Division Update:** David Rendon, Office of Policy and Planning, provided additional information about the WorkFirst, Working Connections Child Care and General Assistance changes listed on the attached ESA Legislative and Budget Update handout.

- One bill requires a 12-month WCCC authorization period for children who are enrolled in Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Head Start and Early Head Start. CSD is working with Division of Early Learning to put this in place and resolve issues such as how to identify children in these programs and how to respond to changes that occur during the certification period. Marilyn Scott expressed interest in these changes as many tribes may operate ECEAP and Head Start programs.
- Significant issues related to the GA changes include:
 - There will be intensive case reviews for thousands of cases between now and fall and move any cases that qualify from GA to GA-X. Those who don't qualify for GAX and have received 24 months of GA out of the past 5 years will lose cash effective September 1.
 - A housing voucher program will be administered by the Department of Commerce for persons who are homeless and in need of mental health or chemical dependency treatment. We must offer these clients a housing voucher, if available, and \$50. If no housing is available, they get a full GA cash grant. Marilyn Scott informed state staff that Tribal HUD housing, which can also provide other services such as training, may be a resource and more flexible than section 8 housing programs. David will forward this information to Commerce.
 - CSD is working with HRSA and the GA managed care provider (CHPW) to contract for SSI facilitation services. Contracted facilitation will begin as a pilot in King, Pierce and Spokane counties by July 1 and expand statewide by October 1. Marilyn Scott raised the issue that many tribal members are exempt from GA managed care and urged close coordination between the contractor and tribal clinics or mental health/chemical dependency programs. Others suggested adding contract requirements for coordination, such as joint case staffings, as has been done with other state programs (DVR/ADSA/DDD care assessments).
 - CSD will be holding regular teleconferences with its headquarters and regional staff to update staff and review progress in implementing the GA changes.

These teleconferences will give people a chance to ask questions and make suggestions. **Please contact David Rendon at RendoD@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 725-4610 if you have tribal government representatives who would like to participate in these calls.**

► **Division of Child Support (DCS) Updates:** David Stillman, Director, Division of Child Support provided the following updates:

- 2010 Legislative Updates:
 - Effective July 2010, Noncustodial parent IRS refunds intercepted by DCS will be distributed first to debt owed to the State for periods the custodial parent received TANF and then, if any excess, to debt owed to the custodial parent.
 - There were no changes to the child support “pass through” that sends custodial parents (CP) with one (1) child, not receiving TANF, the first \$100 of child support collected in a month. CPs with more than 1 child receive the first \$200 collected in a month.
- DCS continues to seek more effective & efficient ways to provide services including the reviewing the following areas:
 - Limited English Proficiency (LEP) caseload
 - Administrative establishment of Child Support Orders
 - Out stationing of staff
 - Coding of Tribal Cases
- On June 3rd DCS has scheduled a meeting with Tribes to discuss pending legislation impacting child support.
 - The morning session of the meeting will be open to all Tribal representatives.
 - The afternoon session is for Tribes with IV-D Child Support programs.
 - For information regarding this meeting please contact:
 - DCS Tribal Relations Team
 - Brady Rossnagle, 360/664-5031, brady.rossnagle@dshs.wa.gov
 - Ted Thornton, 360/664-5028, ted.thornton@dshs.wa.gov
 - Saundra Cheek, 360/664-5025. saundra.cheek@dshs.wa.gov

► **Review of Matrix:** Sarah Colleen Sotomish, STRO Administrator, lead the review of the IPAC ESA-DVR meeting Matrix.

- Attached to the notes is the revised Matrix that reflects the updates made at the meeting.

► **Subcommittee Meetings - Process Improvement:** Sarah Colleen Sotomish lead a discussion of ways to improve the IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meetings. Discussion topics included:

- Benefits of holding meetings by phone if there are only updates on the agenda
- Ways to improve the development of the meeting agenda
- Holding the meeting on the same day as another DSHS Administration

- Please send any suggestions for improving the IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meetings to Sarah Colleen Sotomish, Administrator, State Tribal Relations Office at: Sarah.Sotomish@dshs.wa.gov

► **Follow-up / Next Steps:**

- ESA agreed to the request made by Tribal representatives that any Talking Points used by meeting presenters should be e-mailed to participants with the meeting notes. Attached to the meeting notes are the Talking Points for:
 - Troy Hutson, ESA Assistant Secretary
 - If you have any questions regarding the covered topics please contact Sarah Colleen Sotomish, Administrator, State Tribal Relations Office, at Sarah.Sotomish@dshs.wa.gov or (360) #725-4661.
 - David Stillman, Director, Division of Child Support
 - If you have any questions regarding the covered topics, please contact Brady Rossnagle, Manager, DCS Tribal Relations Team, at brady.rossnagle@dshs.wa.gov or (360) #664-5031.
- Matrix: Please provide any suggested revisions to the IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meeting Matrix to Cindy Trokey at trokecj@dshs.wa.gov by June 1st, by either:
 - Identifying the Matrix section & requested correction/update, or
 - Insert requested revisions in “track changes” to the attached Matrix.
- ESA will report back at the next meeting on Staff efforts in working with Tribes, libraries and other entities such as Department of Licensing offices to schedule times and places for the Mobile CSO buses to deliver services.
- OIP will explore scheduling IPAC ESA-DVR Subcommittee meetings to coincide with a half day meeting with another DSHS Administration.
- Jennifer LaPointe will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the Puyallup Tribe’s benefits kiosk.

